

life support systems are under unprecedented attack. We simply do not know how close we may be to the outer limits; yet, to exceed them could result in a planet no longer able to support human life.

And despite all our experience on the land, the oceans and outer space that are the common heritage of mankind are in danger of becoming arenas of conflicting interests. The energy, mineral and nutrient resources of the oceans and the still indeterminate potential of outer space cannot surely be pre-empted by those who manage first to reach them as in some renewed scramble for possession of what is above any man's or any nation's proprietary claims.

Nor is this an exhaustive catalogue of the problems facing us all - rich countries and poor alike; but they are challenges that can only be met through a global awareness of the human condition. Nor are they new; basically, they were the problems that occupied the attention of UNCTAD I in 1964; they were the disparities that launched the first development decade in 1960, and the second in 1970. Nothing about their reality is new; what is new, is the perception by the developing world that their root causes lie in the structure of the world order and an emerging acknowledgement in many parts of the developed world, not only that these perceptions are right, but that the interests of human society in general demand that the inequities they reflect must be righted. What is new is the dawning appreciation that the task of creating a just and equitable world community cannot be much longer deferred. As Leon Eisenberg said in 1974:

"The idea of brotherhood is not new, but what is special to our times is that brotherhood has become the precondition for survival."

Given the Commonwealth's record in decolonisation; given the overall record of its developed states in terms of aid; given the genuine concerns animating so many areas of thinking on Third World issues at political and academic levels throughout so much of the developed Commonwealth; given Britain's commitments to making the EEC more progressive and outward-looking; given the challenges and opportunities of Canada's role in the North-South dialogue; given the work of the Commonwealth Expert's Group and the general endorsement of its interim and further Reports by Commonwealth Governments; given the positive contribution of Commonwealth developed states, including Australia and New Zealand, at the Seventh Special Session - given all this and more, the Commonwealth I suggest, has the right to demand of itself a truly purposeful role in helping the world towards that global awareness and towards consensus on a more just and equitable system of global arrangements.

And in this matter, as I told the Dalhousie Conference, many non-governmental organizations have a vital role to play both in reaching Governments and, at least as important, in reaching people; for a new international order will only come when the people of the world - particularly of the developed world - demand it of their Governments. Your efforts, for example, can assist in reaching the trade unionists - the workers of the developed countries - to help them see in the struggle for real development at the international level a reflection of their own successful struggle for social and economic justice at the national level. They can help in reaching